SHIRAISHI ET AL. Appl. No. To Be Assigned October 7, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependent claims.

The specification has been amended to include a cross-reference to the parent applications.

An early and favorable Action on the merits is requested.

Please grant any extension(s) of time deemed necessary for entry of this communication. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper filed hereafter) to Deposit Account No. 14-1140.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:

ARC:ewm

1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor

Arlington, VA 22201-4714

Telephone: (703) 816-4000

Facsimile: (703) 816-4100